departmental action, the criminal action is initiated under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 in such cases.

**Prevention of Corruption**

†89. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been formulated by Government to free the country from corruption, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps that have been taken, so far, after the constitution of new Government for prevention of corruption and to what extent these steps have been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government is committeed to provide clean administration and to eradicate corruption at all levels. The drive against corruption in public services is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. In the Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government, the Secretary and the Head of the Department concerned is responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in the respective organisation.

The Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.1999. The Bill stands referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.

Lok Pal Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.1998 to set up the institution of Lok Pal to look into the allegations of corruption against high public functionaries. The Bill, however, lapsed on the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha on 26.4.1999. Steps are being taken to re-introduce the Lok Pal Bill.

The Government set up a Working Group on 'Right to Information and Transparency' in January, 1997 which submitted its report to the Government on 21st May, 1997. The recommendation made by the Working Group was examined comprehensively and a draft Bill prepared for the purpose has been revised on the recommendations finalised by the Group of Ministers on February 2, 2000. Accordingly, action has been initiated to introduce the Bill in the Parliament.

Besides, the Central Vigilance Commission has been vested powers vide para 3(v) of Department of Personnel and Training Resolution No. 371/20/99-AVD.Ill dated 4th April, 1999 to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration. The Commission has issued several instructions to reduce the scope of corruption such as creating a culture of honesty, greater transparency in administration, electronics clearance system and computerisation of banks, sensitising the public etc. The Central Vigilance Commission has also issued Special Chapters on vigilance management in public sector banks and public sector undertakings.

**Increase in Dealers' Commission**

90. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1969 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th August, 1997 and state:

(a) what is the formula for revising the dealers' commission to neutralise the effect of price hike in prices of MS and HSD;

(b) how many times the prices of these products were increased during the last three years;

(c) how much increase in dealers' commission is given to the dealers with each price hike; and